



Usborne Farmyard Tales

First Nature Book

Illustrated by Stephen Cartwright

Butterflies

Butterflies fly around in spring and summer feeding on nectar, a sweet juice found in flowers.



This butterfly is called a small tortoiseshell.

It is drinking nectar from a buddleia flower.

Next time you see a butterfly land on a flower, stay very still and look closely at it. Can you see its long thin tongue? It uses it like a straw to suck up nectar.

Here are some other butterflies to look out for:



Orange tip



Common blue



Large white



Clouded yellow



Comma



Peacock



Red admiral

Poppy and Sam look for butterflies in the garden at Apple Tree Farm.



Pondlife

Lots of animals live in and around ponds.

In late spring and summer, look out for dragonflies and damselflies above the water...

...and frogs, newts, pond-skaters and waterboatmen in the water.



Midge

Emperor dragonfly



Alder-fly

Gnat

Water cricket

Whirligig beetle

Brown china mark moth

Great silver diving beetle

Water scorpion

Pond dipping

Next time you go to a pond, try pond dipping to see how many of these creatures you can see.

Be careful not to go too close to the edge of the pond and never go on your own.



1. Put some pond water in a plastic container. An ice cream tub is ideal for this.

2. Sweep a net through the water. Carefully empty it out into the container.

3. See if you can recognize anything you have caught. Then, return it to the pond.

Mayfly

Common blue damselfly

Pond-skater

Water boatman

Mosquito larvae

Common frog

Great crested newt

Leaves

There are lots of different kinds of leaves.



Silver
birch



Oak



Copper
beech



Ash



Atlas cedar



Horse
chestnut



Lime



If you look closely at a leaf you can see lines on it, called veins. Water and food travel through these.

veins

Deciduous or evergreen?

Some trees, such as oak, are deciduous. This means they lose their leaves in the autumn.

Other trees, such as holly, are evergreen. This means they keep their leaves all year.

These holly leaves have strong, waxy leaves to protect them through the cold winter months.



Leaf prints

You could collect some different leaves and use them to make leaf prints.



1. Paint an even layer of thick paint over the underside of a leaf.



2. Lay the leaf paintside down on some paper. Place some scrap paper on top.



3. Lift off the scrap paper. Then, carefully peel the leaf off the paper.



4. To make paler prints, print the leaf again three or four more times.



5. Collect some different leaves and make more prints in different colours.

Flowers

Butterflies and bees visit flowers to drink a sweet juice called nectar.



This is a sunflower.

petal

stem

leaf

pansy

How a flower grows



A flower grows from a seed in the soil.



A root grows down and a shoot grows up.



The shoot gets taller. It grows leaves and a bud.



The bud opens up and the flower comes out.

Most flowers come out in spring or summer. You won't see all these together in real life.

daffodil

poppy

tulip

daisy

dandelion

clover

Birds

This bird is an owl.



bluetit

bag of
nuts

Many birds like nuts
and seeds. You can
watch them if you
put out bird food.



Nests and eggs



Birds build nests from
grass, twigs and mud
to keep eggs safe.



When the nest is
finished, the mother
bird lays some eggs.



Birds sit on their eggs
until baby birds hatch
out of them.



When baby birds hatch, they
can't fly. Their parents feed
them with worms and grubs.

Bugs and slugs



fly

dragonfly

bee

butterfly

spider

ladybird

ants

snail

caterpillars

Caterpillars and butterflies



caterpillar



pupa



butterfly

A caterpillar turns into a butterfly. It hangs upside down on a plant.

Its skin grows harder and harder. Now it is called a pupa.

After a few weeks the pupa breaks open and a butterfly comes out.



slug

worm

centipede

beetle

grasshopper